

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01495 201603Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 IO-13 /087 W
-----201806Z 027532 /43

P 201507Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3674

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 1495

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. THIS MORNING I GAVE A TELEVIZED INTERVIEW IN MY OFFICE PREPARATORY TO MY DEPARTURE FROM URUGUAY. LATER, UPON LEAVING THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE WHERE I HAD GONE TO SAY FAREWELL, I WAS INTERVIEWED BY SEVERAL RADIO STATIONS AND ANOTHER TV CHANNEL. DURING THE COURSE OF THESE INTERVIEWS, THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROSE AND I RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ALONG THE LINES INDICATED BELOW. WE ARE OBTAINING THE EXACT TRANSCRIPT FROM EACH INTERVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID AND WILL PROVIDE THESE TO THE DEPARTMENT BY SEPARATE MESSAGE.

2. I AGREED, GIVEN THE WAY THE QUESTIONS WERE PHRASED, THAT IN CARRYING OUT A POLICY SUCH AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY THAT SOME TACTICS COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. I ALSO AGREED THAT RECENTLY SOME FRICTIONS HAD ARISEN IN THE RELATIONS OF URUGUAY AND THE U.S. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE AND BELIEF, HOWEVER, THAT THESE WERE LARGELY ON THE SURFACE AND THAT THROUGH DIPLOMACY AND THE EXISTING GOOD WILL OF BOTH PARTIES THIS SITUATION WOULD BE SOLVED. BEYOND THIS, I CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT AMERICAN-URUGUAYAN RELATIONS ARE SOLIDLY BASED ON A LONG TRADITION OF SHARED IDEALS, FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. I SAID THAT NOTHING WHICH HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY HAS AFFECTED THIS BASIC
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PAGE 02 MONTEV 01495 201603Z

FOUNDATION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. I THEN STATED THAT I WOULD MUCH RATHER COMMENT ON THE POSITIVE ASPECTS AND CALLED ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH BEFORE THE OAS WHICH I SAID CONSTITUTED A VERY CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE HIGH MORAL PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IN THE U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I ADDED THAT I WAS CERTAIN THAT THESE SAME HIGH PRINCIPLES WERE SHARED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF URUGUAY, AND CALLED AT-

TENTION TO STATEMENTS RECENTLY MADE BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION
DARRACQ AND, ONLY YESTERDAY, BY FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA IN
HIS OWN POSITIVE COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. I THEN
STATED THAT I HAD FOUND THE RECENT TESTIMONY OF ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS COORDINATOR
DERIAN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONSTITUTE A VERY
REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH TOWARD MAKING THE HUMAN
RIGHTS POLICY AN EFFECTIVE ONE. I SAID I FELT OPTIMISTIC AND
HOPEFUL THAT BY APPLICATION OF THE POLICY THROUGH SUCH CONCEPTS
IT WOULD HAVE SUCCESS AND A BENEFICIAL IMPACT IN LATIN AMERICA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, AMBASSADORS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTEV01495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770137-0530
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770438/aaaabgvq.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 528b2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2749985
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, UY, US, (SIRACUSA, ERNEST V)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/528b2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009